

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OC-05 A-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 USSS-00

SCCT-01 EB-07 FAA-00 SR-02 ORM-01 DOTE-00 /106 W

----- 018863

O 151721Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3895

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4845

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: BEIRUT SITREP - 1530Z

REF: BEIRUT 4829

1. DESPITE INFORMATION THAT PLANS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT FOR
CEASEFIRE (BEIRUT 4844) BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND PALESTIN-
IANS, IT APPEARS THAT FIRING, PUNCTUATED BY OCCASIONAL EXPLO-
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SIONS (MAINLY ROCKETS) CONTINUES LATE PM APRIL 15 NEARLY AT

LEVEL ESTABLISHED OVER PAST TWO DAYS. BEGINNING ABOUT 1345Z, SOUND OF CLASHES FROM AIN RAMMANEH AND SHIAH AREAS PICKED UP NOTICEABLY ACCORDING TO EMBOFF WHO WAS IN VICINITY OF BEIRUT MUSEUM (JUNCTION OF CORNICHE AND DAMASCUS ROAD). WE HAVE ADDITIONAL REPORT THAT SINN AL FIL ACTION CONTINUES UNABATED.

2. SOMETIME AFTER 1200 Z, ROCKET STRUCK FUEL STORAGE TANK IN PORT AREA AND THICK COLUMN OF SMOKE VISIBLE OVER THAT PART OF CITY. EMBOFF WHO DROVE THROUGH MAIN DOWNTOWN AREA (MARTYRS SQUARE) AT APPROX 1400Z REPORTS SHOPS AND CINEMAS CLOSED AND CENTER OF CITY DESERTED EXCEPT FOR SMALL NUMBER CARS AND POLICE WHO CHECKING DOCUMENTS AT SEVERAL ROADBLOCKS. SQUAD 16 HAS CLOSED PART OF MAIN THOROUGHFARE BETWEEN STARCO CENTER AND HOLIDAY INN, SCENE OF HEAVY EXCHANGES OF FIRE ON SUNDAY NIGHT.

3. AIRPORT CONTINUING TO OPERATE AND IT NOT CERTAIN SHORTAGE OF FUEL PER SE WILL AFFECT OPERATIONS ALTHOUGH GENERAL SITUATION AND DROP-OFF IN PASSENGERS TO AND FROM BEIRUT COULD LEAD SOME AIRLINES TO OVERFLY CITY. EMBOFF WHO WAS AT AIRPORT AT APPROX 1300Z SAYS AREA QUIET WITH LITTLE ACTIVITY AT WHAT IS NORMALLY SLACK DAILY PERIOD IN AIRPORT OPERATIONS. ARMY TROOPS IN EVIDENCE, INCLUDING PATROLS ALONG ENTIRE EXTEND OF RUNWAYS. HE EXPERIENCED NO PROBLEM NO DIFFICULTY IN TRIP TO AIRPORT AND RETURN TO EMBASSY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PREPARATIONS FOR PALESTINIAN FUNERALS, WHICH EITHER POSTPONED FROM YESTERDAY OR HELD WITH LITTLE FANFARE, MAY NOW BE UNDER WAY AGAIN. ONE SOURCE SAYS ORGANIZERS SEEKING PARTICIPATION OF RECORD NUMBER OF MOURNERS, BUT WE HAVE NO FIRM INFO RE PLANS OR TIMING.

5. ACCORDING TO ALL INDICATIONS, AMCITS SAFE.
GODLEY

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